



# GDOT TRAFFIC ZONE



Volume 19, Spring Edition

April 15, 2002

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

### Your Leadership Is Needed During These "Tight Budget Times!"

I hope all of you are aware by now of the very serious budget situation our City is currently facing. While there are many factors which have created the budget crisis (the Governor decision to withhold local tax revenues, a continued slowing of our economy, etc.) we all have a leadership role to play in moving our department and organization forward. What leadership can we provide that will make a difference?

**Stewardship.** Our continued use of and focus on stewardship is critical to insure we have the resources we need to continue to provide high quality basic and core services to our community. As we often say, treat every dollar as if it were your own, and in this case, treat every dollar as if it were your last. Question the need for all purchases before you make them, and if possible, look for ways to defer or delay them to the future. We all need to make sacrifices during these tough times, however our continued leadership in stewardship will make a difference.

**Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**  
While this may seem minor in scope, as I often say "it's the little things that make the biggest difference," and too often we do not pay enough atten-

tion to this rule. Last year our department spent thousands of dollars on office supplies (paper, pens, etc.) and new equipment. Three quick examples of how our leadership can make a difference include **reduce** the amount of paper you use (double sided copies), **reuse** old office supplies (make it a habit to check in your desk or truck before you stop by the supply cabinet for a new item), and **recycle** old office supplies and equipment (if you can't use it but it's still in good condition, chances are someone else can). Every dollar counts, our leadership and focus on the three R's will make a difference.

Continued focus on **Back to Basics**. In my opinion, B2B is the single greatest leadership area we all can continue to focus on during these tight budget times to make a difference. Through our identification of small problems before they become big problems, our attention to detail of corridors and every single piece of transportation infrastructure we maintain, and our timely and quality follow-up to correct these problems, we not only save money, we also continue to proactively address City Council priorities and community needs. Keep up the great work...everyone



Jim Westmoreland, Director

(Photo taken by Brian Wert)

is noticing the B2B difference!

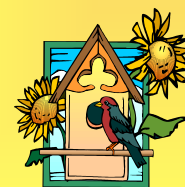
In closing, I value and appreciate the outstanding job that each of you do for our department, organization, and community. While times are tight, I know I can count on your leadership to help us through this very difficult budget situation. The keys... Stewardship, the three R's, and B2B. If there is one thing I know about GDOT, it is that we are always up for a good challenge, that we have never encountered a situation yet where we didn't hit the problem head on, do our dead level best to solve it, and then excel in the end through teamwork, hard work, and leadership! Go get it GDOT!

## STORM WATER MAINTENANCE

Crews have been busy this year, working on several storm water improvement projects. We are also busy preparing the area for the new salt storage facility, and grading and cleaning up around the existing storage facility in anticipation of its demolition.

### Special points of interest:

- From The Director
- Back To Basics
- Announcements



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Crews have focused on the areas in and around creeks and streams removing litter and debris. This type of work generally goes unnoticed, but never unappreciated. .

## **SAFETY**

Training Calendar being changed to incorporate new Apprenticeship Program.

An agreement has been reached among GDOT, General Services, Environmental Services, and hopefully Water Resources to train new employees during orientation on the following subjects: Hazard Communication, Blood-borne Pathogens, Emergency Procedures, Fire Extinguisher Use, Defensive Driving, and Policy Overview. What this means is each department will leave open some seats for other departments when these sessions come available for training. This will greatly help for subjects like Hazard Communication, which everyone is required to have.

We are in the process of forming our STAR Certification Committee. So far, Jeff Knight, Sharon Willard, and Darrell Toler have agreed to sit on this committee. I need one other non-manager volunteer and two managers to volunteer. Once this committee is in place we will begin the arduous process of applying for STAR certification. We are well on our way to getting there.

**GDOT HAD ZERO LOST WORK-DAY ACCIDENTS IN 2002 (January 1 – April 10).** That is a terrific accomplishment to date!!!!!!! Please let's keep this going.

## **BACK TO BASICS**

The first quarter of 2002 has been huge for the Back to Basics Program! After only one year, the program continues to make great things happen in Greensboro. Let's take a look at our accomplishments to date:

- Employee participation rate at 88%! (Our original goal was 75%.)
- Targeting maintenance works! In January/February we reported over 1,500 streetlight malfunctions to Duke Power.
- GDOT employees have IDENTIFIED, REPORTED, and CORRECTED over \$225,000 worth of maintenance concerns, not including streetlights!
- Citizen-generated pothole concerns have decreased by 35% this year as compared to last year!

We are proud of the departmental efforts to continue to stay involved with the Back to Basics Program. Do you know someone who has yet to participate? Challenge your co-workers to get involved, and make Greensboro's roadways the best in the state!

**SHARING THE STORY WITH OTHERS!** Jim and Dale presented the first year's accomplishments to the City's Executive Team in March, and the story will go to the media very soon. Keep your eyes and ears open, Back to Basics may be heading to another level of success!

The Back to Basics Hall of Fame through March, 2002 includes Sandy Munroe (2,228 points), Pat McLaurin (1,888 points), and Darren Case (746 points). Great Job!

## **ENGINEERING**

The Engineering Division continues to focus on Work Plan projects. The Corridor Improvement Program is currently focusing on West Wendover Avenue with a public meeting planned for April 18, 2002.



## WAREHOUSE

Starting Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, Steve and Sur-Ree will begin 10 hour shifts from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm. Kimberly's schedule will be 7:00 am until 3:30 pm.

Back to Basics T-shirts and golf shirts should be in by April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have points to redeem see Kimberly. Hats are available now. Shirts are ordered after you place your order. It may take several weeks to receive your shirt so order ASAP.

## GTA

*Yee haw – it's Roadeo time at GTA!*



GTA is gearing up for the annual Roadeo, to be held April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Roadeo tests bus and van drivers' skills in a course set up in Emerald Pointe's parking lot. Winners of the local Roadeo will go on to compete in the North Carolina Public Transportation Association (NCPTA) Roadeo in June. GTA has had several drivers place in the top 3 in the state competition in years past and plans to enter the "best and brightest" again this year! We're very excited that the Winston-Salem Transit Authority (WSTA) is also participating in our local Roadeo at Emerald Pointe, heating up the competition just a bit! The first annual GTA-WSTA Roadeo should be an exciting – and fun – event for GTA employees and their families.

## PLANNING

As noted in the last edition of the *Traffic Zone*, the Planning Division faces a diverse set of challenges and opportunities in 2002. The single most important challenge lies in the area of improving community walkability. As

you can see from progress towards construction of the current "worn path" sidewalk contract along major streets in the community, progress is being made. Another 20 miles or so of sidewalk projects are currently in the design phase, with more in the planning stage -- the next set of sidewalk projects will be sent to Engineering and Inspections for design and construction in late May. The current Community Walkability Plan initiative will lead to further improvements in the years ahead.

City Council heard a detailed review of the Community Walkability Plan effort at their February 26<sup>th</sup> briefing. They expressed support for the effort, and directed staff to provide a (1) Walkability Policy for their approval; and (2) proposed revisions to the Unified Development Ordinance for their consideration. We had planned to supply these items following a series of public interviews and meetings, however, Council support at the front end of the process is expected to be a big help. On March 19<sup>th</sup> Council approved a Greensboro Walkability Policy, which reads as follows:

"The Greensboro City Council hereby establishes the goal of creating a more walkable Greensboro. This goal will be attained through the following actions:

- An ongoing City sidewalk construction program targeted to community and transportation system needs, including improving safety and access to needed services and destinations.
- An ongoing City effort to respond to pedestrian safety, mobility, and access issues through the use of other warranted pedestrian facility improvements, education, and other strategies.
- Ordinance requirements for development and redevelopment that

require sidewalk construction to meet pedestrian safety and access needs and further the City's sidewalk connectivity goals. "

We expect this policy to lead to steps that will have a substantial impact on transportation safety, access, and mobility in this community, and, when all is said and done, to mark a turning point in Greensboro Transportation history. Staff plans to bring forward proposed ordinance revisions for Council consideration in May. Public involvement activities are currently being planned to follow this step. In the meantime, work continues on analyzing pedestrian and bicycle accident history and trends, and refining City sidewalk construction priorities. The outcome of the Community Walkability Plan will be detailed action steps to implement the provisions laid out in the walkability policy -- action steps that will involve not just sidewalk projects, but a broader effort throughout the GDOT and the City organization to make Greensboro a more walkable community.

## SIGNS AND MARKINGS

We are testing a new Pavement Marking Application (drop line machine) on Wendover Avenue in April.

## TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The Traffic Signals Division and Duke Power Company are working in the downtown area to replace several hundred light and signal poles. Look for the new green signal heads as we begin replacing old equipment.

## BUSINESS /PARKING

Over the past three months the Business/Parking Division has had several exciting events take place. First and foremost, Kenny Craw-





ford, SafeLight Program Administrator, moved his office from the Service Center to MMOB. The staff on the third floor is happy to have Kenny back in the Municipal Building. Kenny's phone number has stayed the same, so if you have questions regarding the SafeLight Program please contact him at 412-6312 or at the SafeLight Office at 883-9581.

Another exciting accomplishment for the division has been the direction that Parking operations has taken following the completion of the Comprehensive Parking Study. In March Parking operations implemented some of the new incentives, and on April 9<sup>th</sup> a public meeting was held to discuss the privatization of the parking meters. More new and exciting initiatives are expected to be unveiled soon.

## PARKING OPERATIONS

Effective March 1, 2002 the Parking Division implemented several new parking incentives for the Central Business District. The incentives include the first 30 minutes of parking FREE, extended operational hours until 8:00 pm, and FREE parking after 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday at the 4 city-owned parking decks. Parking downtown just got easier!



## SAFELIGHT CAMERA

One year and going strong. Believe it or not we celebrated the first anniversary on February 15<sup>th</sup>. We continue to serve the city and it's citizens with a unique safety program.

Our numbers, while on a downward trend, indicate that there are still many out there who continue to disobey traffic rules and run red lights. The message is getting out and our supporters sing praises of what a great job we continue to do. It is our goal to make this city not only better but safer as well.

We continue to make changes to improve the program (i.e. changes in our envelopes, new web page information, better customer response). We see some decline in the number of appeals and a definite reduction in the number of repeat offenders. Our contractor is in the final phases of re-calibrating the existing cameras to ensure that the quality of photos received are more clear and accurate. It is our commitment to bring quality service to this program and it starts with evaluation from within.

## STREET MAINTENANCE

We are doing routine maintenance on utility cuts, potholes, shoulder and ditches. We are gearing up to do crack sealing on some streets as well as skin patching, which was very effective last year. We are also working on repairing concrete curb and gutter for resurfacing, and employing a new maintenance technique of grinding trip hazards on sidewalks. Later this year we plan to get into milling of some intersection, which are developing some rutting..



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Congratulations!

*Employee of the Year Finalist*

Sandy Munroe, Signals and Faythe Johnson, GTA. We are proud of you!

*Supervisory Leadership Track Program – Graduation ceremony held March 21<sup>st</sup>*

H. T. Grove, Jimmy Fennell, Leo Cheek, Michael Covington, Phil Wray, Ricky Davis, Steve Huddy, Tim Hulon, Tom Riley and Vince Price.

*Twin daughters!* Carrie Reeves gave birth on March 8<sup>th</sup> to Allison Louise (4 pounds 14 ounces) and sister Mary Kate (4 pounds 6 ounces). Mother and daughters are home and doing well.

*Engagement* - Bill Judge is engaged to Marydeth Steadman and a November 9<sup>th</sup> wedding is planned. We extend our best wishes!

### Welcome Aboard!

*Signals* - Dale McCraw, Traffic Signal Technician started on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Signs and Markings* - Derrick Parker started on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Parking* - Tonya Woodall started part-time with the Bellemeade Deck on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Supervisory Leadership Track 2002 Graduates*



## CONDOLENCES

*Condolences to Keith Dillon on the death of his father, Lawrence L. Dillon. Mr. Dillon passed away February 20<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans.*

